

**REMARKS****Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kudo et al.* (Amorphous  $V_2O_5$ /carbon composites as electrochemical supercapacitor electrodes, 2002, Solid State Ionics, 152-153, 833-841, available online on 6/9/2002).

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been amended, and claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-2 and 4-5 remain pending in the application for further consideration.

**All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kudo et al.* (Amorphous  $V_2O_5$ /carbon composites as electrochemical supercapacitor electrodes, 2002, Solid State Ionics, 152-153, 833-841, available online on 6/9/2002). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections as being based upon a reference that neither teaches nor suggests the combination of features recited by independent claim 1, as amended, and hence dependent claims 2-3 and 4-5.

With respect to independent claim 1, as amended, *Kudo et al.* does not disclose that a carbon fine powder is coated with a manganese oxide, a manganese nitride, or a manganese carbide, as claimed. Applicants respectfully assert that manganese is inexpensive and not harmful as compared to vanadium disclosed by *Kudo et al.* In fact, vanadium is considered to be harmful in some countries such as Japan. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that

independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over *Kudo et al.* Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claims 2-3 and 4-5 depend from allowable independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2-3 and 4-5 are also allowable because of the additional features claims 2-3 and 4-5 recite and the reasons stated above.

### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

/Robert J. Goodell/

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By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Goodell  
Reg. No. 41,040

**CUSTOMER NO. 009629**  
**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**  
1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
Telephone: 202-739-3000